



Girvan Academy
Parent Council Meeting 4 October 2021
Head Teacher Update



1. Staffing

We welcomed Ben Robinson as our new DHT on Monday 27th September. In addition, the vacant DHT post has been advertised. The closing date is Sunday 10th October and interviews are scheduled to take place on Friday 29th October. Joanne Frew will leave to take up her new post on Friday 5th November.

2. SQA Attainment

The national data hub Insight went live on Thursday 30th September. An initial look at the data shows some very positive analysis. I will provide a more in depth look at the next Parent Council Meeting. Our School Improvement Visit with the Director of Educational Services, Quality Improvement Manager and Peer Head Teacher is on Monday 1st November where attainment and achievement will be discussed.

3. School Refurbishment

- **Support & Wellbeing** – the handover from the contractors is still ongoing despite several extended deadlines passing. SAC colleagues are in constant communication with the building contractor to secure the necessary safety certificates and complete the essential snagging items to allow the handover to be completed.
- **Next phase of refurbishment** – a meeting was held last week with Education Services colleagues and architect to examine the next phase of refurbishment. An upgrade of the old library to incorporate Business & Computing classrooms was discussed. A follow up meeting on Friday 1st October with the architect and G Rae (PT Technologies) was convened to explore the initial ideas and plans.

4. The use of Mobile Phones in school

The use of mobile phones in classes has been highlighted as a distraction to learning & teaching, although in some case they are used for learning & teaching purposes. A consistent approach to their use is being sought and a short life working group has been formed to develop a policy for use in classes and around the school.

5. Parents' Evening prior to Christmas

The feedback from departments was overwhelmingly in favour of using Teams/phone calls on the existing dates rather than an additional report or delaying the evenings to later in the year.

Last Monday at our Leadership meeting, I shared a website called parents-booking.com that could potentially simplify the logistics of setting up appointments online for both parents and staff. In addition, it has the functionality of being able to keep appointments to 5 minutes. This online platform will be examined further to determine whether it would be an easier option to use rather than organising individual Teams/phone calls to parents/carers.

6. LGBT Charter Silver Award

I am delighted to let you know that Girvan Academy has achieved the LGBT Charter at Silver Level. Congratulations to Craig McClure and his team for achieving this coveted award.

Mark Anderson
Head Teacher
4th October 2021